

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to any paper(s) indicated above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT REQUESTED

Applicant's previously-submitted 23 January 2004 information disclosure statement (IDS) has not been acknowledged as having been considered, i.e., a copy of any Form(s) PTO-1449 has not been returned with Examiner initialing to indicate consideration. For convenience, submitted herewith is another copy of any Form(s) PTO-1449 from such IDS. The Applicant specifically requests return of an Examiner-initialed copy of the Form(s) PTO-1449, indicating that the information (i.e., references) has been considered. Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner in advance for such initialing/consideration.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 29-67 were pending, under consideration and subjected to examination in the Office Action. At entry of this paper, Claims 29-67 remain pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

NON-STATUTORY DBL PAT. REJECT. - TERMINAL DISCLAIMER FILED

The obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 29-31, 40-42, 51-53, 62, 64 and 66 as set forth within the Item 2 on page 2 of the "Detailed Action" of the Office Action, is respectfully traversed. However, in order to travel a path of least resistance to obtaining a patent for the present application, submitted herewith

is an executed Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the non-statutory double patenting rejection. As a result of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection of the subject claims are respectfully requested. The above statements, or the filing of any Terminal Disclaimer, should not be taken as an indication or admission that the rejection was valid, but is merely use of a procedural approach to obtain a patent (without prejudice or disclaimer) as quickly as possible given that the present application's patent may have coextensive term anyways as measured from the same original filing date, regardless of the Terminal Disclaimer. Further discussions/arguments concerning such rejection(s), claims and/or reference are left for the future if/when appropriate.

As a final point, it is respectfully submitted as a reminder that, if new art is now cited against any of Applicant's unamended claims, then it would not be proper to make a next action final.

ALL CLAIMS IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the fact that all prior art rejected claims appear allowable in view of the Terminal Disclaimer filed to obviate any double-patenting rejection, it is respectfully submitted that all presently pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance with respect to the present application is respectfully requested.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any

Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance.

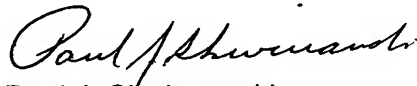
To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR '1.136. Authorization is herein given to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-

2135 (Case No. 501.34466CC4) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Based upon all of the foregoing, allowance of all presently-pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENTS:

copy of 26 November 2004 Form(s) PTO-1449